

cases) in the rate of new AIDS cases resulting from perinatal transmission, comparing the most recent data to 1993 data;

(2). At least 95% of women who are received at least two prenatal visits prior to 34 weeks gestation have been testing for HIV; or

(3). A Program for mandatory testing of all newborns whose mothers have not undergone prenatal HIV testing.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Ryan White CARE Act; I am proud to have served on the conference committee for this very vital legislation; and I am proud to be here today to speak in support of the bill's final passage. As most of us are aware, AIDS has become one of the most difficult and complicated public health threats in recent memory. For this reason, the Ryan White CARE Act is important not only for those already infected with HIV or suffering from AIDS—as a public health bill, this legislation is important for all of us.

We've said it a number of times before, but it bears repeating: AIDS is now the leading killer of men and women ages 25 to 44. AIDS has killed over 300,000 people since the beginning of the epidemic in the early 1980's—but half of those people, 154,077, have died in the past 2 years. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that nearly 1 million people are now infected with HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS. Clearly, then, AIDS is challenging our health care system in ways it has not been challenged before.

We discussed this bill at length nearly a year ago, so I want to take a few minutes to remind my colleagues of the valuable programs they will help to support today. As I've already mentioned, the bill provides health services to those already living with AIDS. It also relieves pressure from our critical care units and emergency rooms by utilizing early intervention techniques with AIDS and HIV patients.

The programs we're reauthorizing today work at the local level, and they're cost-effective—two things we've tried hard to stay focused on in this Congress. The Ryan White CARE Act funds community based organizations to provide needed outpatient care at the local level in the most cost effective and efficient ways possible for the populations that need help the most. One study even indicated that a person receiving outpatient managed care spends 8 fewer days in the hospital than a person not receiving such care—resulting in a cost savings of over \$22,000 per person.

Dollars from the CARE Act increase the availability of critical outpatient primary care services; they provide support services; and they improve the quality of life of those living with HIV. In Vermont, CARE Act money is used primarily to provide pharmaceuticals to people with HIV and AIDS who need drugs, but cannot afford them.

Successful outpatient care keeps people out of the hospital, improves their quality of life, and saves money for the

system. When early interventions and primary care are used successfully, the health care system saves untold dollars in unused emergency health services. From a purely fiscal perspective, we cannot afford not to fund these programs.

Finally, let me remind my colleagues that this is not a disease from which we can remove ourselves so easily as we might expect. Any of us who previously felt confident we could not be touched by HIV or AIDS because AIDS affects other people must now reexamine those assumptions. Soon we will all have friends whose lives have been touched by this disease. I had the honor of hosting one of my friends, David Curtis, at a Labor Committee hearing on this bill. The face of AIDS is changing, it is affecting the people I know and the people we all know.

If we and our loved ones are affected, I know we will want adequate resources to be available to help with prescription drugs, health care and support services. The Ryan White CARE Act is an assurance that help will be available. So for my friend, David Curtis and the millions of other Americans affected by HIV, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting final passage of the Ryan White CARE Act.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the conference report be deemed adopted, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the conference report be included in the RECORD at the appropriate place.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The conference report was agreed to.

#### ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1996

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until the hour of 10 a.m. on Friday, May 3; further, that immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, that no resolutions come over under the rule, the call of the calendar be dispensed with, that the morning hour be deemed expired, that there be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 1 p.m. with Senators to speak for up to 5 minutes each with the following Senators to speak for the designated times: Senator COVERDELL for the first 90 minutes and Senator DASCHLE for the last 90 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, the Senate will have a period for morning business only tomorrow, and no rollcall votes will occur during Friday's session of the Senate.

Following morning business, the Senate will recess until 12 noon on Mon-

day, May 6th. Following morning business on Monday, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate turn to the consideration of Calendar No. 380, H.R. 2937, regarding White House Travel Office.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, it is my hope that the Senate could dispose of the White House Travel Office bill by the close of business on Monday. I did not hear the debate between the Senator from Arkansas and the Senator from Iowa, but, hopefully, if there are problems, we can work those problems out. We hope there are not any nongermane amendments. We will see what happens. Perhaps we could find that out before or maybe on Monday because I may fill up what we call the amendment tree—I prefer not to do that—in order to keep the Senate germane to the pending issue.

There will be no rollcall votes during Monday's session of the Senate, and the Senate may be asked to consider any other legislative matters that may be cleared for action.

I know there are a number of nominations on the calendar. I have never been one to try to hold up nominations, but I would just say to the White House they have had nominations—Republican nominees have been down there for 6 to 8 months—that have not been sent to the appropriate committees. It seems to me there ought to be some reciprocity here. If they continue at the White House to say, "We are not going to send Republican nominees out," we do not find it very difficult to say, "Why should we clear nominations the White House wants?"—whether judicial nominations or any others.

So I hope we could have some understanding because I have never been one, regardless of who is in the White House, to try to hold up nominations. These nominees have families and obligations but so do the families we have sent down months and months and months ago. They are still waiting for some word from the White House. They cannot have it both ways.

I also hope that we could still work out some agreement—we made a tentative suggestion to our colleagues on the other side with reference to the minimum wage. I will ask Senator LOTT to try to meet again early next week with Senator DASCHLE or his designee to see if we can work out some time to take up that matter, either as a part of something else, which I will not speculate what it might be, or have separate votes, parallel votes on our proposal and a Democratic proposal, because we would like to proceed with the legislation and not have nongermane amendments at every turn. It took us 8 days to complete an immigration bill that probably should have taken 3 days, and I hope that we can catch up. We need to catch up so we can hopefully enjoy a recess or a few days off the end of this month. We have